

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

East Germany

COUNTRY _____ REPORT _____

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT _____ 638556 25X1

DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 3 August 1954

REFERENCES _____ 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____ This is UNEVALUATED 25X1

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Koethen airfield between 9 and 29 June 1954:

9 June. About 0830, 25 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s were towed out of the hangars and parked in front of the hangars at irregular intervals. Three MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s remained in the hangars. Throughout the day, there was no air activity but some engines were run up. Between 2200 and 0300, night flying was practiced while searchlights were in operation. The aircraft took off in elements of two at intervals of 150 to 200 meters. They remained aloft for about 20 minutes at altitudes of between 1,200 and 1,500 meters. The two searchlights, about 3 km apart, were in operation during the air activity. The aircraft flew with throttled engines over the searchlights and, when caught by the beams of the searchlights, continued flying regularly. Six take-offs in elements of two were counted.

18 June. About 0845, 17 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s taxied to the take-off point. Shortly after 0900, several MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s without auxiliary fuel tanks took off individually and, at intervals of about 40 seconds, and practiced firing at towed sleeve targets at an altitude of about 1,500 meters. After about 30 minutes, the aircraft again landed at the field. Four U-MiG-15s practiced diving, after approaching from the south at an altitude of about 2,500 meters and a speed of about 350 km/h. Over the airfield, the aircraft individually peeled over the left wing and dived over the landing field at an angle of about 60 degrees. At an altitude of about 1,000 meters, they pulled out of dive and then made a level flight. This practice was repeated by each aircraft 3 or 4 times. A total of 20 take-offs were made by the aircraft.

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Each aircraft _____

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29 June. A total of 20 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s were counted at the field. About 0700, 18 aircraft were towed out of the two eastern hangars. The repair hangar was open and unoccupied. No air activity was conducted. Some aircraft engines were being warmed up. 1

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2. On 29 June, the AA gun emplacement in the southeastern corner of the field was still occupied by 6 x 37-mm AA guns. About 1030, 2 trucks each towing a four-barreled AA gun were observed on the landing field. Personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced with the AA guns. One of the trucks had the [redacted] 2 Motor vehicles observed entering and leaving the field included trucks [redacted] 1

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3. On 9 June, 14 MIG-15s and U-MIG-15s were observed at the field. About 2300, there was night flying activity with searchlights. Two aircraft were continuously aloft. The first aircraft was illuminated by the searchlights while crossing the field in horizontal flight. The second plane with set position lights flew at the side of and some distance from the first one. The searchlights were turned off when the aircraft made curves and turns. 1 On 28 and 29 June, 11 and 14 MIG-15s and U-MIG-15s respectively were parked in front of the eastern hangars. Between the aircraft revetments aft of the northern dispersal area were 3 radio trucks, one of which had a rod antenna and the other two an umbrella-shaped antenna each. 3 During the late afternoon on 2 July, aerobatics were made by MIG-15s. Jeep [redacted] truck [redacted] and driving school truck [redacted] were observed entering and leaving the field. 1

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1. [redacted] Comment. The present report indicates that the occupation at Koethen airfield has not changed. The aircraft of the fighter regiment still carry out air activity along the usual pattern. Noteworthy are the dives observed on 18 June. [redacted] on U-MIG-15s were reported for the first time from East Germany. [redacted] of the previously reported [redacted] was observed for the first time.

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2. [redacted] Comment. The AA gun emplacement with 37-mm AA guns has repeatedly been reported. Four-barreled AA guns were observed for the first time in Koethen.

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3. [redacted] Comment. The radio installations mentioned have previously been reported. [redacted] The installations with umbrellashaped antennas are probably used for VHF radio traffic.

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